



Business

Elon's bro quits Burning Man board amid outrage over Epstein connection

Burners revolted over the association with Kimbal Musk, whose name appears more than 100 times in the latest DOJ documents.



Kimbal Musk is no longer on Burning Man's board of directors, according to an email viewed by The Standard. | Chris Saucedo/Getty Images/SXSW



By **Jillian D'Onfro**
Business Reporter



Share

Published Feb. 4, 2026 at 2:34pm

Elon Musk's younger brother Kimbal Musk is no longer on Burning Man's board of directors, a role he had held since 2021, according to an email viewed by The Standard.

Musk's role with Burning Man came into question after revelations about his ties to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein appeared in the latest trove of Department of Justice documents. The Burning Man community subsequently circulated an open letter urging the organization behind the annual desert bacchanal to remove Kimbal Musk from the board.

An email from Burning Man CEO Marian Goodell to an artist whose work has appeared at the event revealed that Musk is "no longer a board member."

“Kimbal and I spoke almost two weeks ago and he chose not to continue his board service. He sent in his letter to the board last week,” said Goodell’s email, sent Wednesday. “We don’t announce additions and departures to the board. Kimbal was there to represent Elon’s donation in 2021. He was never on the website by his choice and he is no longer a board member.”

Goodell’s message came in response to the [artist asking to remove their work](#) from consideration for a Burning Man grant due to the organization’s association with Musk.



It's been a turbulent few years for the Burning Man organization. | Courtesy of Burning Man/Benjamin Langholz

Based on Goodell’s email, Musk resigned before the latest release of Epstein files. Musk’s name appeared more than 100 times [in this batch](#), including in messages arranging meetings and thanking Epstein for “connecting” him to a woman in 2012.

The open letter, published at [RemoveKimbal.org](#), asked the Burning Man organization to provide transparency on whether Musk’s involvement with the board aligned with the organization’s mission: “The documented pattern of association with a convicted sex offender — and the nature of that association as revealed in the files — raises serious questions about judgment and values that the Burning Man community deserves to have addressed.”

More about **Silicon Valley**



AI and TikTok are giving brain rot. Could flash cards reverse it?



‘The Mogul Midterms’: Four ways Silicon Valley billionaires are influencing the election



How one of the Bay Area’s most boring towns became the center of streaming

Burners chimed in on Reddit, [saying that they, too](#), had heard from the organization that Musk was no longer on the board. While the community celebrated Musk’s departure, some criticized the organization for not making a public statement. Burning Man has [never proactively engaged with the community](#) about Musk’s role on its board, and many were frustrated by the continued lack of

communication.

“This all proves to us how secretive and wildly untransparent the supposed stewards of Burning Man continue to act,” one person wrote. “[Goodell] has to issue a formal statement for this to have any merit, full stop,” wrote another. “Word of mouth via Internet forums isn’t gonna cut it.”

Musk did not respond to requests for comment. A Burning Man spokesperson confirmed the departure but did not comment on the open letter or Musk’s ties to Epstein. “Upon his term concluding, Kimbal Musk in January chose not to renew his role as a member of Burning Man Project’s Board of Directors based on other commitments and priorities,” the spokesperson said. “We appreciate his participation and support as a community member across many forms of engagement.”

It’s been a turbulent few years for the Burning Man organization. After sluggish ticket sales in 2024 following the “mudpocalypse” a year earlier, the organization made an urgent call for donations to cover a \$20 million budget shortfall. At the time, much of the community responded with frustration over what they saw as a lack of transparency from the Burning Man organization, as well as increased spending on areas outside the core August event. Additionally, the event’s participants have been getting older, without a new cohort of young revelers to fill in the gaps.

Last year’s celebration was marred by particularly brutal weather conditions and a homicide on the Playa.

More about the author



Jillian D'Onfro

Business Reporter · [Contact](#) ▾

Filed under

[Burning Man](#) [Business](#) [Culture](#) [Elon Musk](#) [Silicon Valley](#)

More **Business**



Dandelion Chocolate was once wary of Union Square. Now it's betting on its future



Landlord strikes back: SF tower that lost Google, Visa poised for transformation

🗨️ 1



Silicon Valley found AI and started looking for God



EXCLUSIVE

Home sold by Stripe billionaire brothers breaks Alamo Square price record



By **Jillian D'Onfro**

SF's best thrift stores, according to a panel of shopping pros

Your favorite thrifters' favorite shops.

Mar. 30, 2026 · 1:00pm



EXCLUSIVE

Ikea's struggling food hall is losing another restaurant

With Cheezy's leaving Saluhall, only three vendors remain.

Mar. 5, 2026 · 10:17pm



Most read **today**



Trash piled outside Eileen Gu's Sea Cliff home reignites neighbor dispute

1



'It is insanity': SF luxury condo owners fume over aggravating neighbors. (They're Waymos)

1



EXCLUSIVE

The \$30M nonprofit quietly fueling Lurie's domination of City Hall



SF school chief survives congressional grilling designed to embarrass her



Chaos and infighting: Inside the implosion of Matt Mahan's governor's race

1

S



About Us

Staff

Standards & Ethics

Newsletters

Mobile App

Jobs

Contact Us

Tips

Advertising

Sign In

Paid Subscription

Subscription FAQs

© The San Francisco Standard. All Rights Reserved. [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [California Resident Rights](#) [Privacy Center](#) [Check](#)

2 free posts left

Already a subscriber? [Sign in now](#)

